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#### HEAD OFFICE

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416 K.S.A. Tel: 00966-01-4033962/4043432 Fax: 4021659

E-mail: Riyadh@dar-us-salam.com, darussalam@awalnet.net.sa Website: www.dar-us-salam.com

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Fax: 718-625 1511

Email: darussalamny@hotmail.com

#### U.K

##### Darussalam International Publications Ltd.

Leyton Business Centre

Unit - 17, Elloe Road, Leyton, London, E10 7BT

Tel: 00 44 20 8539 4885 Fax: 00 44 20 8539 4889

Mobile: 00 44 7947 306 706

##### Darussalam International Publications Limited

146 Park Road,

London NW8 7RG Tel: 00 44 20 725 2246

##### Darussalam

398-400 Coventry Road, Small Heath

Birmingham, B10 0UF

Tel: 0121 77204792 Fax: 0121 772 4345

E-mail: info@darussalamuk.com

Web: www.darussalamuk.com

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Tel: 0027-31-304-6883

Fax: 0027-31-305-1292

E-mail: idm@ion.co.za

Uthman bin Affan رضى الله عنه

## The Third Caliph of Islam

By

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Edited by

Aqeel Walker

Muhammad Ayub Sapra



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,  
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

## ***Publisher's Note***

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*' to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this story titled '*Uthman bin 'Affan* ﷺ – *The Third Caliph of Islam*', is the life story of one of the greatest Muslim Caliphs. He proved to be unique in his generosity to the poor and the needy. He was unique in his bashfulness, modesty and adherence to Islam. At moments of distress, his donations to support the Faith of Islam yielded prospected fruits. No one among the Prophet's Companions could excel him in his financial support of Islam



except Abu Bakr ؓ.

He did great things during his rule, especially the collection of the Qur'ân. During his reign, the Islamic State expanded to many nations.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim children, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker, and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**  
General Manager

## Foreword

In the Arabian Peninsula, rich people were a few. Most of the inhabitants of cities were grazing animals or trading with other cities in the civilized world of the time. As for the bedouins of the desert, they were moving from one place to another to find food for their flocks. Their life mainly depended on these animals. Few people in the society of Makkah, were known as rich merchants. However, in relation to society, such riches were not of much use.

Few rich men were exceptions to this rule. However, before the advent of Islam, they were not known to be so generous to the needy. Hence, it is Islam which seeded in them love for charity.

It is really not an easy job to write about a man of the latter type whose virtues and good characteristics are countless and whose generosity is unlimited. Uthman bin Affan ؓ, who had the riches of life, both during pre-Islamic and Islamic periods, was not like other men who collected money to enjoy the pleasures of this life. He devoted his life and money to serve the cause



of Islam. Uthman ؓ came from a very wealthy family, but he was different from other boys of first class families. He could not enjoy the things around him while seeing other people suffering poverty and misery. Therefore, when he grew up, he never missed a chance to help the poor and needy. He led a life of distinctive piety. He always kept himself away from anything that might blemish his morals. He was so bashful that the Prophet ﷺ once said:

“The angels feel shy when they see Uthman.”

He spent the nights praying to Allâh and the days spending his money to satisfy the needs of the poor. It can truly be said that the role of Uthman ؓ in spreading Islam was very great in that he always spent all his resources in support of Muslims during times of hardships. He had no concern for this world, his only concern was to do things to please Allâh and to serve the religion of Islam.

In this short biography, we are going to read how this great man led the Islamic nation to spread Islam so widely and how he supported the Word of Allâh very sincerely.

**Abdul Basit Ahmad**

## **Introduction**

### **Caliph**

Immediately after the Prophet ﷺ passed away, the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ selected a ruler of the Islamic State. The said ruler was named as Caliph meaning “successor” of the Prophet ﷺ. The first Caliph of Islam was our hero Abu Bakr As-Siddique ؓ. However, before he passed away and after consulting with the senior Companions of the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ selected ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab ؓ as Caliph. In the beginning of his rule, the Muslims called him as the Caliph of the Caliph of the Prophet ﷺ. However, such a designation proved awkward. Therefore, a man suggested calling him the Master of Believers. The following two Caliphs, ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan ؓ and ‘Ali bin Abi Talib ؓ were given the same title.

### **Emigrants**

The emigrants (*Muhajirun*) were the Muslims who believed in the Prophet ﷺ during the period of call to Islam in Makkah and who left this city



to live in Al-Madinah where they built their new state. The period of emigration continued up to the time of the conquest of Makkah. Emigration to Al-Madinah was not only considered a way to escape the oppression of disbelievers but also an act that intimates solidarity with the new nation. Therefore, the Muslims who emigrated before the conquest of Makkah were considered by Allâh as better than those who emigrated after that event. It was an order from Allâh to all believers to gather together in the city of Al-Madinah. These people were praised by Allâh for their dedication and sacrifices for the cause of Islam.

### Supporters

The *Ansâr* (supporters) were the Muslim inhabitants of Al-Madinah who offered all they could to help the emigrants resume their life in the new abode. These supporters gave their brother emigrants financial resources, houses and most important of all, protection against their oppressors. The supporters were praised by

Allâh for the help they provided to the Prophet ﷺ and emigrants.

### Badr Battle

Badr was a place near to Al-Madinah. The first battle between the Muslims and the disbelievers took place there. The Muslims were not permitted by Allâh to fight the pagans in Makkah because had they fought them, it would have been a disaster for them especially if they killed anyone of the pagans. The principle of revenge would have rendered the Muslims a victim for the stronger pagans and would have changed their direction. However, after emigrating to Al-Madinah, the Muslims had now a state to defend. Hence, they were ordered by Allâh to fight the disbelievers. The battle ended in a great victory for the Muslims although they were one third the number of the pagans with less arms and horses.

### Uhud Battle

Uhud is a mountain in north of Al-Madinah.



## **Migration to Abyssinia**

Uthman ؓ was married to the Prophet's daughter named Ruqayah رضي الله عنها. Uthman ؓ took his wife and left to Abyssinia to escape the oppression of the Quraish. Upon arrival there, Uthman ؓ and the other Muslims tried to live in peace and worship Allâh as they wished.

The Quraish chiefs were angry to see the Muslims leave Makkah and escape their control and tyranny. They attempted all ways to prevent the Muslims from leaving Makkah, but all their efforts were unsuccessful. The Quraish chiefs discussed ways to have the Muslims brought back to Makkah. Some of them were trading with Abyssinia. They knew the Emperor (Najashi) personally. They thought that sending some presents to the Emperor would help them get their slaves and relatives who had escaped their torture back to Makkah.

Abu Sufyan and others suggested that they should send 'Amr bin Al-'Aas to Al-Najashi to get the Muslims back to Makkah. 'Amr bin Al-'Aas knew Al-Najashi very well. They were friends.

The Quraish collected nice gifts to be presented to

the Emperor and urged 'Amr bin Al-'Aas to use his friendship with the Emperor to realize their objectives.

'Amr bin Al-'Aas arrived in Abyssinia and sought to meet the Emperor. He set a plot to make the Emperor expel the migrants from his land or even surrender them to the Quraish. Upon meeting the Emperor, 'Amr presented to him the gifts sent by the Quraish which the Emperor liked very much. The Emperor asked 'Amr if he could offer him any help.

'Amr took the chance to ask the Emperor to question the migrants who sought protection in his land. He said that they had left the religion of their people and followed a strange religion that was neither idol worshipping nor Christianity. The Emperor ordered the migrants to come to his court. He asked their leader, Ja'far bin Abi Tâlib ؓ about the allegations made against them. Ja'far advanced to the middle of the court and said:

"We were people of bad morals and faith. We worshipped idols of stone. We treated our neighbours in an evil way. We lived as such until a man from among us declared that he was



## Defiant and Brave

In the sixth year after emigration to Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ decided to perform pilgrimage. With one thousand four hundred Muslims in pilgrims' dress, Uthman ؓ left to Makkah to perform pilgrimage. On the way, the Muslims learnt that the Quraish would not let them enter the city. At last, the Muslims reached a place called Hudaibiyah. They camped there. The Prophet ﷺ sent a messenger to the Makkans to convince them that the Muslims only wanted to perform the pilgrimage and had not the slightest intent to fight. However, the messenger was treated badly and returned without any success. The Prophet ﷺ then wanted to send someone who was highly respected by the Quraish. Uthman ؓ was selected because of his kinship with the powerful Ummayyad family. The Makkans, however, detained him for three days and news reached the Muslim camp that he had been killed. Without exception, all the one thousand four hundred Muslims gave a pledge that they would stand or fall together to avenge

Uthman's murder. Such a pledge pleased Allâh and the Prophet ﷺ, soon it was known that the news of Uthman's murder was false.

## The Unique Example of Sacrifice

During the time of the Prophet ﷺ, the Muslims had so much love for Islam that they would race one another in doing good deeds and making sacrifices for the religion of Allâh. However, none of them could excel Uthman ؓ except Abu Bakr ؓ. Uthman ؓ was a true and generous believer. He was so keen to please Allâh that he would sometimes sacrifice all his trade and property for the support of Islam. Uthman ؓ was so generous that he would give out of his money to all those around him.

As soon as the Prophet ﷺ entered Al-Madinah, he built a small mosque. This mosque was not like any other mosque. It was a place where the Muslims could gather for prayer, prepare for *Jihâd* (fighting disbelievers) and discuss the affairs of the Muslim community. As more and more people accepted Islam, the



prayers and recitation of Qur'ân while the Greeks kept on chiming their bells. In the morning, the Greeks could not withstand the Muslims' attack and fled. Under the rule of Uthman ؓ Muslims expanded the Islamic State in every direction. Many of the inhabitants of the conquered lands accepted Islam. Those who kept their religions were treated justly and mercifully.



## ***Virtues and Morals of Uthman*** ؓ

### **Collection of the Noble Qur'ân**

During the rule of Uthman ؓ, many nations accepted the religion of Islam. They spoke different languages and dialects. In addition, dialects began affecting the standard Arabic language. Uthman ؓ was very keen to keep the language of the Qur'ân as it had purely been revealed from Allâh. He was worried when he realized that the people throughout the parts of the empire were reading the Qur'ân in different dialects. Uthman ؓ had all the copies of the Qur'ân available at the time collected. He then chose four prominent Companions and got them to compile the Qur'ân in the dialect of the Quraish. Upon completing the job, Uthman ؓ sent a copy to each side of the empire and ordered them to destroy any other copies of the Qur'ân.

### **Simplicity**

Uthman's life, even after becoming the Caliph, was simple. Although he was one of the richest merchants of Makkah, he did not indulge